

Blaze damages 19th century home

Fire started in fireplace

By Andria Farrell
ANFARREL@CNC.COM

DUXBURY — Approximately 30 fire fighters from Duxbury and neighboring towns battled bitter cold and a brutal blaze that severely damaged a Duxbury home built in the early 1800s.

At approximately 7 p.m. Wednesday, the Duxbury Fire Department responded to a 911 call at 446 Summer Street reporting a chimney fire. According to Deputy Fire Chief William Carrico, the fire, which began in the fireplace, breached the brick and extended throughout the walls and ceiling reaching the second floor of the structure.

Fortunately, the homeowner detected something wrong soon after lighting the fire in the fireplace. According to Carrico he noticed smoke coming out of the sides of the mantle. After trying to remove the fire from the fireplace, he

thought he had solved the problem, but soon noticed smoke coming from behind the stairwell. That is when the fire alarm sounded and he called 911. Carrico noted that the owner, who has Internet-based phone service, tried calling 911 from his landline, but was unable to get through because his service did not recognize 911. The owner then called 911 from his cell phone.

"The fire started in fire place and breached the brick spreading into walls, this is pretty common with fireplaces that extend into the building," he said.

Firefighters continued for several hours after to put out hot spots within the walls and the ceiling.

Carrico said use of a thermal imaging camera helped firefighters detect the hot spots and fire within the walls that resulted in them tearing down the second floor walls and ceiling. The firefighters also had to remove the roof

SEE FIRE, PAGE 4



STAFF PHOTO/MATTHEW NADLER

Men work to clean up a fire that severely damaged a 19th century home on Summer Street.

Blaze damages home

FROM FIRE, PAGE 1

around the chimney because of fire believed to be spreading within the shingles of the roof.

The freezing cold conditions made extinguishing the fire extremely difficult, he added. "It slows down the operation, once a firefighter gets wet you have to

bring out of the cold, we constantly rotated people through."

Although the fire caused extensive damage, Carrico said it was contained to one portion of the house. A brand new addition attached to the original structure, only suffered a little smoke damage.